

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces any earlier listing:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A turbine unit for a turbocharger comprising: a rotor housing (2) with at least one admission channel (9) for a fluid;

a turbine rotor (4) which is supported in a rotor space (23) of the rotor housing (2);

a nozzle ring (6) with a plurality of shafts (8) located on said nozzle ring (6) in a crown formation, and which comprises on one side vanes (7), which are susceptible to being turned from a substantially tangential position into a substantially radial position with respect to said crown, and at least one control lever (19) in order to change the position of the vanes (7);

an actuation device (11) in order to create control movements which are transmitted to a VTC mechanism (5-8) with variable geometry;

whereby transmission of the control movements is effectuated by a control ring (5) positioned coaxially with said nozzle ring (6) and adjacent thereto, and which is movably connected with said at least one control lever (19), as well as a guiding and centering device for the control ring (5), which comprises at least one roller (3, 20, 21) which substantially rolls on a roller contact surface (20) of the control ring (5);

wherein said rollers (3, 20, 21) are arranged between the control ring (5) and a releasably connectable ring (6, 38), wherein said releasably connectable ring is releasably connected with the rotor housing (2), and

wherein said rollers (3), said control ring (5), said nozzle ring (6), said vanes (7), and a vane orientation mechanism (8, 19) are assembled as a modular unit (26) capable of being inserted into said housing (2) as one piece.

13. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, comprising at least one of the following:

- a) the rollers (3, 20, 21) are cylinder bearings;
- b) the releasably connectable ring is the nozzle ring (6);
- c) the modular unit (26a) further comprises a fastening ring (29) which is positioned opposite to the vanes (7) on the rotor housing (2) and fastened therewith, and is connected with the nozzle ring (6).

14. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, wherein the rollers (3, 20, 21) are housed in an axially open free space (5''), and wherein the free space (5'') is closed by a holding ring (22), wherein said holding ring (22) comprises axial extensions (24) of the rollers (3), wherein the rollers (3) are held by the holding ring (22) at a certain distance from one another.

15. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, wherein a plurality of control levers (19) are fastened on the shafts (8) on a side of the nozzle ring (6) that is opposite to the vanes (7), wherein said plurality of control levers (19) extend approximately radially, and wherein each of the plurality of control levers (19) has a free end (18).

16. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, wherein a diameter of the control ring (5) and a diameter of the releasably connectable ring (6) which cooperate with the rollers (3, 20, 21) are of a dimension to allow a certain radial play P of the rollers (3) at all operation temperatures.

17. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, wherein the modular unit (26, 26a), the control ring (5), the rollers (3, 20, 21) and the releasably connectable ring (6) are held together in non-rotatable fashion through inter-engaging projections and depressions (33).

18. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, wherein at least one seal groove (28) is arranged between the rollers (3, 20, 21) and an admission channel (9).

19. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, wherein a roller contact surface (21) of the releasably connectable ring (6, 38) has a smaller diameter than the roller contact surface (20) of the control ring (5).

20. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 19, further comprising at least one of:

the rollers (3, 20, 21) are at least one of a cylindrical bearing or a ball bearing; the rollers are housed in an axially free space (5'') of the control ring (5) whereby said free space (5'') is closed by a holding ring (22) which has axial extensions (24) of the rollers (3); the releasably connectable ring is the nozzle ring (6a); the diameters of the control ring (5) and of the releasably connectable ring (6, 38) which cooperate with the rollers (3, 20, 21) are calculated to provide a radial play (P) of the rollers at all operating temperatures; the modular unit (26, 26a) is held in a non-rotatable state through inter-engaging projections and depressions (33), and is solicited into this position by a soliciting device (32); between the rollers (3, 20, 21) and a space (9, 23) which carries fluid, a ring shaped sealing (27, 28) is provided; the rollers are formed in a free space (5'') by a number of cylinders or balls which fill said free space (5''); or the rollers are formed by at least three cylinders or balls that are guided in the free space (5'') by a freely rotatable holding ring (22).

21. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, wherein the modular unit (26, 26a), the control ring (5), the roller bearing (3, 20, 21) and the releasably connectable ring (6) are held together in non-rotatable fashion through inter-engaging projections and depressions (33), and wherein the modular unit is solicited into this position by means of a soliciting device.

22. (New) The turbine unit according to claim 12, wherein one of the bearing ring (38) or the fastening ring (29) are assembled as the modular unit.